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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Chelyabinsk Oblast)

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SUBJECT Tank Plant in Chelyabinsk

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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2. The town of Chelyabinsk is located on the right bank of the Mias River about 70 miles east of the Turgaiski Mountains, which are part of the Urals. The following plants are located on the left bank of the river:

- a. The Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant (ChTZ) CHELYABINSKI TRAKTORNY ZAVOD)
- b. Plant for Agricultural Machines (SILKHOZMASH)
- c. Tank Plant (TANKOVY ZAVOD)

The area covered by these plants, which are considered to be one Kombinat, is about 20 square kilometers. The tank plant is surrounded partly by a brick wall, partly by barbed wire. It is guarded day and night by armed military guards. About 6,000* persons are employed at the plant. They are engaged on a free contract basis. They must be party members and all possess party books. There are trade union organizations representing eleven different unions. During the war a large number of women and youths were employed but the women have been replaced by workers discharged from the army since the end of the war. All workers live in Chelyabinsk or its suburbs and the Communist Party and the local authorities pay close attention to their living conditions. Wages and provisioning of the workers is very good in comparison to conditions in other plants. The entire personnel of the plant is under MVD supervision and almost every third worker is an official or secret MVD informer. The working methods are competitive, which increases the production capacity but lowers the quality of production. A tank school is located in the vicinity of the plant. There is also a military technical school (VOYENNO TEKHICHESKOYE UCHEBNOYE ZAVEDENIYE - VTUZ) which is attended by youths 14 to 17 years of age.

2. The plant produces self-propelled assault guns, carriers (TELEGA NA GUSENISHNOL CHODU), and tanks. The plant does not produce the

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following parts:

- a. All rubber accessories, vines, pads, which are delivered by the YAROSLAVL synthetic rubber trust.
 - b. The ball-bearings, which are delivered by one of the ball-bearing plants, presumably in Moscow.
 - c. Some moulded parts, which are delivered by the foundries located in Chelyabinsk.
 - d. All optical and precision instruments, which are delivered by plants in Czechoslovakia.
 - e. The armament, which is delivered by armament plants presumably in the South Ural.
3. During the war and after, the bulk of production was of tanks of T-34 type for the Soviet, Polish, and Bulgarian armies. During the latter part of the war, production of tanks decreased slightly but after the war production surpassed the pre-war level. [REDACTED] the following production figures which [REDACTED]

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July 1948: 330 T-34 type tanks

August 1948: 345 T-34 type tanks.

The cost of production of one T-34 with full equipment and armament varied between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 rubles during the time source was there. Some of the T-34 tanks designed for the Soviet Army were equipped with a new anti-tank weapon described below. The tanks of the Soviet occupation troops were not equipped with this apparatus until the winter of 1948, presumably for security reasons. In July 1948 there were about 2,000 tanks collected at the Chelyabinsk plant, T-34 and other types. They were not in storage condition but were ready for immediate use.

4. Some of the T-34 tanks produced at the plant were armed with the Katyusha type rocket gun. Some self-propelled assault guns were equipped with the same weapon. The regular guns have been taken away from such armored vehicles and they have been turned into a kind of self-propelled assault Katyusha. Some of the T-34 tanks were equipped with flamethrowers of German or Soviet construction, the details of which are not known. The T-34 tanks have been equipped with 750 HP Diesel engines, all of which were produced by the Chelyabinsk plant. The tanks have been painted with dark green paint which is supposed to be anti-magnetic. Every new tank constructed by the plant is checked by the control-supervising commission. Only when the tanks meet all the tests required by the commission is it released from the factory and allowed to proceed to the special receiving commission which checks it thoroughly. If the tank gets the receiving commission's O.K., it is sent to the factory's base, from which point it is assigned to duty. Tanks which do not pass inspection are returned to the foundry. Defective tanks amount to between 12 and 18 per cent of the entire production. Most of the plant's production goes to the Soviet Army, although many T-34's are delivered to the Polish and Bulgarian armies. Source has delivered T-34's to Modlin, Poland, where they were taken over by Polish military. 60 per cent of the armored vehicles of the Soviet occupation troops in Austria consist of T-34's.
5. Each tank released by the Chelyabinsk factory is provided with a special control book with all technical data and numbers written in. It is the duty of the tank commander to note all replacements and

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repairs that are made on the vehicle. The number of kilometers travelled by the tank and the number of engine work hours are also recorded in the book.

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6. In the summer of 1948, the Chelyabinsk plant started to produce a new type tank which is named after its inventor, whose name began with "K" and ended in "in". Source cannot recall the name but thinks it was something like "KROTONIN" or "KARTININ". Its exterior resembles that of the German Panther. Actually, the vehicle is a combination of Panther and T-34. Its weight is about 67 tons and it has caterpillar chains with rubber pads running on five bogey wheels, adapted to move over soft terrain. [REDACTED] if the manufacture of this tank has gone on a large scale production basis.
 7. During the last period of the war, the plant produced a few of the super-heavy tanks of type "XXX" but they proved to be a failure and the production was halted. They weighed 111 tons and could not be used offensively. There were no bridges which could bear their weight and they were very slow. After the war these tanks were knocked down and sent to the Far East, where source believes they have been included in the coastal defense system.
 8. The weapon mentioned in Para. two above resembles the German Panzerfaust. The missile consists of two parts, an ejecting mechanism and the missile proper, and the ejecting mechanism separates itself from the missile proper at about ten meters from the weapon and spurts a flame about ten meters long. It is reported that no Soviet armor plate has been able to withstand it. It is on a production basis somewhere in the Urals and is an improved type of the German Panzerfaust. The anti-tank apparatus is equipped with optical diopter with two sights (SLOZHIY PRITSELNYY OPTICHESKI INSTRUMENT S DVUEMA VIDIYANIY). When the enemy's tank appears on the sights, the rifleman opens the safety bolt and opens the protecting steel plate and pulls the trigger. The weak point of the apparatus is that it can easily be hit when the protecting plate is open and the explosion of the missile itself would destroy the tank. Each tank equipped with this apparatus can fire between four and six shots in an engagement. The mechanism is handled by the tank commander, who has officer's rank.

Enclosure: Rough sketch of Soviet AT weapon.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment: This figure is somewhat smaller than those which have been previously reported.

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